



Kensington & Chelsea NEWS

LWN

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● COUNCIL GETS TOUGH ON BASEMENT RULE BREAKERS

'This disruption to residents will not be tolerated'

**● By LWN reporter
GEOFF BAKER**

THE basement-bashing blitz by Kensington and Chelsea Council has reached a record high as get-tough borough planners drive a crackdown on the scourge of iceberg homes.

On one day alone last week, council planning police busted eight basement-builders for breaking the rules as the local authority upped its determination to come down on rogue developers like a ton of bricks.

Council planning tsar Timothy Coleridge has now warned rule-breaking builders "there is no excuse – disruption to residents will simply not be tolerated".

And in a new attack in its no-nonsense action to pro-

■ TURN TO PAGE 3

■ HAPPY FACES AT St JOSEPH'S SCHOOL



■ **WE LOVE OUR SCHOOL:** Pupils of St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School in Chelsea in happy mood during their lunch break. Turn to pages 6 & 7 for the first in our series focussing on local schools.

Photo by RICHARD AUSTIN

INSIDE YOUR BRIGHT NEW LOCAL



**How the Queen
disappointed
Beama the corgi**

- see page 15


**How Londoners will
celebrate VE Day**

- see page 21

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Bid to create best health services in the world

Working to make London healthier

THE Mayor of London Boris Johnson, NHS England, Public Health England, London councils and the 32 GP-led clinical commissioning groups have come together to outline how they will work towards London becoming the world's healthiest major city.

The new partnership has been established in response to the challenges set out in the London Health Commission's Better Health for London report and the NHS Five Year Forward View. The aim is to work together at all levels to make the best use of resources and build on best practice to improve the health and well-being of all Londoners, wherever they live in the cap-



FROM THE
MAYOR'S
OFFICE

ital. The plan is a good basis to explore how London could benefit from more autonomy to improve the future of the capital's health.

When compared with other major global cities for well-being, including health and life expectancy, London was ranked seventh out of 14 comparable world cities. A new report published this week outlines ten aspirations to improve health and well-being in the capital and to help the capital move up the rankings.

Better Health for London: Next Steps sets out shared ambitions and how they will measure progress towards the following shared goals:

- Give all London's children a healthy, happy start to life
- Get London fitter with better food, more exercise and healthier living
- Make work a healthy place to be in London
- Help Londoners to kick unhealthy habits
- Improve care for the most mentally ill in London so they live longer, healthier lives
- Enable Londoners to do more to look after themselves
- Ensure that every Londoner is able to see a GP when they need to and at a time that suits them
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any world city, throughout London and on every day

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While leadership for improvements in health and wellbeing will need to come from commissioners, providers and professionals across the capital, the organisations and agencies involved in the 'Next Steps' partnership will also collaborate sub-regionally and across London to support change. The London Health Board, which met last week at City Hall, will bring together citywide leadership to unlock progress and champion improvements for Londoners.

Vital to work together

The Mayor said: "We are embarking on a very exciting journey for health in London. With a growing and ageing population and continued pressure on resources, it is vital that all of us concerned with the health of Londoners work together if we are to ensure the capital becomes the healthiest, fittest big city in the world."

Councillor Teresa O'Neill, London Councils' Executive Member for Health, said: "The

critical role of local government in shaping health and care services is recognised in both the London Health Commission's report and the NHS Five Year Forward View. Boroughs are keen to strengthen that role further, and work with all our partners to achieve the aspirations set out in the Next Steps Plan, which builds on both previous pieces of work."

Anne Rainsberry, Regional Director of NHS England said: "The aspirations will help put London on the map to becoming the healthiest city in the world. Collaborative working is well underway at local level with GPs and health care workers, social care and public health teams delivering high quality care."

Yvonne Doyle, Regional Director of Public Health England said: "We are dedicated to helping all Londoners live long and healthy lives, building on the work of the London Health Commission to give children the best start in life."

Mark Rowland, Chair of the London-wide Clinical Commissioning Council said: "We believe that progress in improving the health of Londoners, and their ability to take a full part in their health care, is vital."



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Chelsea girl celebrates her 100th birthday



■ **CENTENARIAN:** Wynne Hudson pictured with Merton Mayor Agatha Akyigina and family members.

MUSIC lover Winifred "Wynne" Hudson - born and bred in Chelsea - was thrown a surprise party for 100th birthday.

Around 100 people – family members, former co-workers and friends – joined her to celebrate at St Lukes Church in Ryfold Road, Wimbledon Park.

Among them was daughter Wendy who made the trip from Florida to mark the birthday and Councillor Agatha Akyigina, the Mayor of Merton.

Mrs Hudson, a Take That fan, said: "It was a magnificent day. I haven't got over it yet."

Winifred Fox was born and raised in

Chelsea. After the Second World War started, she got a job in the lighting department at Peter Jones in Sloane Square, by which time she was already married to Bill Hudson.

They were together for more than 30 years, until Mr Hudson's death at the age of 57.

She worked at Peter Jones full-time for 28 years while raising a family, until retiring and going part-time.

Mrs Hudson added: "I absolutely loved it there. It was a second-hand store when I started, and I remember meeting famous people and royalty. I served John Wayne, and Princess Margaret and Princess Alexandra."

Last year, Mrs Hudson appeared on BBC2 documentary *Shopgirls*, telling the story of how women swept onto shopfloors around the UK during the 20th century.

Daughter Lynne Lee, 67, said: "Mum doesn't know how she has made it to 100, but I think she has just had a very busy life and she has always had a positive outlook. She doesn't let things faze her. She just takes each day as it comes and tries to enjoy herself."

Mrs Hudson has four children – daughters Wendy, Lynne and son Tom – and three grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Crackdown on basement builders

■ FROM PAGE ONE

tect the borough against the hell caused by lorries at basement sites, the council has launched a "shop a bad builder" campaign – urging residents to report dodgy developing.

The latest strike on iceberg homes comes fast on the heels of pioneering blocks on developers by the council, which has led the capital by pushing through strict planning laws preventing rich home-owners and developers from digging basements more than two storeys deep.

The council has now strengthened its strike force of planning enforcement officers by 30 per cent and figures released by the local authority reveal it has got twice as tough on basement building than it used to be.

Last year the council threw out 111 basement building applications, more than double the 53 it rejected in 2012.

Last Tuesday, planning enforcement officers ordered work on eight basement developments to stop as developers were failing to stick to agreed Construction Traffic Management Plans.

"It was a record day, we've never before served eight notices in a single day – now we are really cracking down," said a council official.

The swoop by enforcement officers came after tips-offs from residents – which the council is encouraging as it launches an all-out attack to protect rate-payers who suffer from dust, noise, alarming vibrations and traffic headaches caused by basement building in the borough.

"The crackdown followed close work between planners and residents who were concerned about the disruption caused by vehicles coming and going from sites in Tor Gardens, Hornton Street and Sheffield Terrace in W8 and Clareville Grove in SW7," said a council spokesman.

"After enough evidence was gathered, the notices to stop work were served by the borough's planning enforcement team. This means work has to cease until the traffic management plans are properly observed.

Now Cllr Timothy Coleridge, Cabinet Member for Planning Policy, has warned that the writing is on the wall for developers who try it on.

He said: "There is no excuse for any developer not to follow the construction traffic management plan they signed up to when applying for planning permission.

"Their failure to stick to the agreement causes real disruption to residents and will simply not be tolerated.

"It is important to remember that without these traffic conditions planning permission would not be granted in the first place.

"I hope that most developers are getting the message that we will listen to our residents and work with them to gather evidence when agreements are not being followed. We will then not hesitate to order work to stop."

More prosecutions in pipeline

The council has sent developers a "we're watching you" warning after revealing that it busted 162 last year for flouting the rules and more busts are to come.

"Property developers operating in the borough of are being closely-scrutinised by planning enforcement officers who are taking action against developers who breach their planning permissions," said a spokesman.

"In the past year planning enforcement officers have served 162 notices on developers, 46 of these related to basement developments which breached Construction Traffic Management Plans.

"The Council achieved its first prosecution of a developer for non-compliance with a Construction Traffic Management Plan which resulted in a fine and costs totalling £16,020 – and more prosecutions are in the pipeline.

"A developer who failed to comply with an enforcement notice requiring him to remove unauthorised extensions had £25,350 confiscated under the Proceeds of Crime Act, the sum reflecting the money he made from renting the property with its unauthorised extensions. He was also received a fine of £15,000 and was ordered to pay the council's costs.

"The council is currently taking court proceedings against two developers who used their construction sites for displaying advertising in breach of planning regulations.

"The team is preparing enforcement proceedings against an owner who gutted a Grade II listed building without listed building consent to make him put back historic features he removed.

"As part of its drive to crack down on breaches of planning control, the Council has increased its number of planning enforcement officers by a third.

"It has also established a new group to coordinate all the Council's construction-related enforcement services made up of officers from teams including parking enforcement, highways enforcement, environmental health, transport planning and planning enforcement, to deliver a joined up response to construction enforcement matters in the borough.

Planning supremo Cllr Coleridge warned: "We are taking action against developers who breach the terms of their planning permissions and we are prepared to seek redress in the courts.

"Our message is simple: we have invested in planning enforcement and we are cracking down on rogue developers."

Any resident who is concerned about a possible breach of a planning condition can find information about how to report it on www.rbkc.gov.uk/planningenforcement

£4.2 million funding to improve front line childcare supervision

AT THE forefront of change and leading the way in local government, the tri-borough joint Children's Services have begun a ground-breaking new way of working after being awarded £4.2 million by the Department for Education's (DfE) Children's Social Care Innovation Programme.

The funding will further improve practitioners work with children and their families, and aims to reduce the number of looked after children by 20 per cent over the next three years, as well as producing a significant reduction in referrals to children's social care.

Tri-borough (made up of the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, and Westminster City Council) were awarded the funding, the first of such grants to be given out, to implement a new Focus on Practice project.

As well as work to tackle systems conditions that inhibit practice, and developing a career pathway to enable practitioners to stay in practice, Focus on Practice includes a comprehensive skills development programme which includes accredited modules in systemic practice, motivational interviewing, and parenting theory and skills.

These evidence-based interventions will allow over 600 practitioners, and 200 managers, to adopt a more engaging approach with families, improving the serv-

TRI-BOROUGH

ices people receive on the front line.

The skills development programme will be provided to every practitioner and manager within all parts of children's social care and will be delivered by world-renowned providers including the Institute of Family Therapy and the Anna Freud Centre.

Councillor Danny Chalkley, Westminster City Council cabinet member for children and young people, said: "This investment will make a real difference to people's lives.

"Social workers already do an incredibly difficult job very well, this will help us improve that work and ensure that children are given the very best advice, guidance and care, so we can help them be successful."

Councillor Elizabeth Campbell, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Cabinet Member for Families and Education, said: "We are very proud of the great work our social workers carry out, often in extremely difficult circumstances.

"We are delighted to have received this award from the DfE so that we can further equip our social workers with the skills they need to help children and their families."

Tri-borough Social Worker Kathleen Butler works with children in central and west London. She added:

"I'm there to help make a difference in people's lives and also never stop becoming a better social worker, we should always seek to improve.

"This project will allow me the freedom to step away from ticking boxes and be creative, with a focus on positive engagement with families."

For more info please contact Nick Thompson at Westminster City Council's press office or call 020 7641 2781.

Kathleen Butler is also available for interview.

Recruitment and training opportunities

Some of the funding will also be used to recruit an additional 24 transitional social workers, increasing the capacity of the workforce whilst the programme is underway, as well as 24 clinical practitioners (family therapists or other clinically trained staff).

In each borough there will be a Head of Clinical Practice post, who will supervise these clinicians working alongside social workers and other professionals, modelling best practice approaches through direct work with families.

Additionally, posts are being created for the 'On Track' programme, a particular area of Focus on Practice which will work proactively with young people at risk of entering the care system as adolescents.

A career pathway is also being developed for practitioners who wish to remain in practice, whilst rising up the hierarchy and developing their expertise.

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MP returns to his roots to shadow social workers

MP Alan Johnson returned to his roots when he visited to North Kensington today to take part in World Social Work Day.

He met some social workers including students on the ground breaking 'Frontline' programme; and spent several hours shadowing them to get a better idea of what they have to do.

'Good Samaritan' saves driver from burning car

A DRIVER was dragged from a burning car by a daring hero in dramatic scenes on the eastbound section of the A40 near Westbourne Grove last Tuesday.

Fire brigade Watch Manager Sian Griffiths, who was at the scene, said: "A man became hypoglycaemic while driving along the A40. His car clipped one car which spun and then rear-ended another vehicle and his car burst into flames.

"A member of the public saw this happen and dragged him from his car. The driver was unresponsive when he was pulled out and he probably owes his life to the good Samaritan who stopped to save him."

Three vehicles were involved in the accident, and although a car was completely destroyed in the blaze, there were only minor injuries - three people were treated at the scene by the London Ambulance Service.

Mr Johnson was born and bred in North Kensington and has experience of social workers from the Royal Borough, having being brought up by his sister from the age of 12 following the untimely death of his mother. Indeed Alan Johnson's experiences with his social worker led him to describe him as an "an absolute hero" who fought to keep brother and sister together.

From the challenging start of his life Alan Johnson went on to pass the 11-plus exam and attended Sloane Grammar school in Chelsea, now part of Pimlico Academy. Leaving school at the age of 15 he then stacked shelves at Tesco before becoming a postman at 18 where he joined the Union of Communication Workers, becoming a branch official.

He joined the Labour Party in 1971 and became a full-time union official from 1987. He became General Secretary of the union in 1992.

Inspiration

Before entering parliament Johnson was a member of Labour's National Executive Committee. During this time he was the only major union leader to support the abolition of Clause IV (the 1918 Labour Party commitment to nationalisation).

Also at the event was Andrew Christie, Executive Director of Children's Services, who said: "I was delighted to meet Alan Johnson and would like to thank him for coming. I think his story can be an inspiration not only to those who have to go through the social care system but also the social workers who work in it. People can go on to achieve almost anything with a bit of support and luck, even becoming a Cabinet Minister and holding one of the great offices of state, such as Home Secretary".



■ BACK HOME: MP Alan Johnson pictured with Borough social workers at the Westway.

Conservative group make their nomination for mayor

COUNCILLOR Robert Freeman has been nominated by the Conservative Party to be Mayor of the Royal Borough for 2015-16.

The election for Mayor will take place at a full meeting of the Council on Wednesday, May 20th.

Born in Westminster, Councillor Freeman has lived most of his life in the Royal Borough. Educated at Christ Church Oxford he qualified as a solicitor in England and later in Scotland (Writer to the Signet) and Ireland. A specialist in Intellectual Property Law and Corporate Mergers, he has worked on a number of patent extension cases, including the Concorde patent for the 'droopsnoot', the variable angle nose that was an essential part of the take-off and landing procedure for the supersonic aircraft. He moved into banking first in London and later in New York where he qualified as an attorney and was admitted to the New York Bar.

Councillor Freeman was elected as a councillor in 1998 and represents Campden Ward.

He is the Council's Older Persons' Champion and takes a keen interest in the problem of elderly isolation. He chairs the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee and is a vice-chairman of the Planning and the Planning Applications Committees.

Councillor Freeman also represents the Council on the Kensington & Chelsea Citizens Advice Bureau, St Mary Abbot's School and on the Council of Governors of the Royal Marsden Hospital.

Speaking about his nomination Councillor Freeman said: "It is a tremendous honour to be nominated to serve as Mayor. I look forward, if elected, to representing the Royal Borough, welcoming into the parlour residents from across the borough and reaching out to all residents particularly those who are lonely and isolated. I propose to nominate lung cancer research, carried out jointly by the Royal Marsden Hospital, with its academic partner the Institute of Cancer Research and the Royal Brompton Hospital, with its academic partner Imperial College London as my mayoral charity."

Married with four grown up children and eight grandchildren, his wife Elizabeth will be his consort if he is elected Mayor. Councillor Freeman has a wide variety of interests and



■ NOMINATED: Councillor Robert Freeman

takes a keen interest in cricket, rugby and the opera.

If elected, his Deputy Mayor will be Councillor Marie-Therese Rossi. Born in London she has lived in the Royal Borough since the mid-1990s. She studied English at Leeds University and more recently studied politics, taking two Masters degrees at Birkbeck College London.

Councillor Rossi was first elected as a Councillor for Redcliffe ward in 2010 and takes a keen interest in the issues of the ward such as licensing, planning, traffic and rubbish collection. For the past two years she has chaired the Public Realm Scrutiny Committee and also sits on the Licensing Committee, the Appeals Panel and the Regulation and Enforcement Review Committee.

Councillor Rossi is a governor of two local schools, Bousfield Primary School and the Chelsea Community Hospital School.



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● MET WARNING OVER GOLD-DIGGING CYBER CRIME

Beware the romeo gangsters driving victims to suicide

LONELY hearts in Westminster are being warned by the Met to beware fake-Romeo gangsters who are scamming would-be partners out of £50,000 a time and are driving the ripped-off lovelorn close to suicide.

The shock explosion of dodgy dating of email Eleanor Rigbys has been exposed in a new report on cyber crime published by the London Assembly.

The report by the assembly's Police and Crime Committee reveals that at least 28 London gangs are now running cyber crime scams on a massive scale – and the capital's computers are being targeted by another 200 more gangs worldwide.

The Met admits that the boom in internet fraud and theft has become a nightmare of much greater proportions than was previously feared – with up to 85 per cent of cyber crime going unreported.

"We heard that many online crimes will not appear in police-recorded statistics because often victims choose not to report crimes in the first place. As a result, police-recorded crime is not a reliable indicator of the scale of online crime," revealed the crime committee.

"The scale of under-reporting is significant. In 2013-14, the Action Fraud and the National Fraud Intelli-

● By LWN reporter
GEOFF BAKER

gence Bureau recorded 211,000 crimes in England and Wales with a reported loss of £2.2 billion.

"But the City of London Police estimated that a further 1,160,500 crimes, with a loss worth £12.1 billion, were not reported by individuals and businesses. The police were therefore not informed about 85 per cent of fraud and online crime offences that occurred".

Of particular concern to the police and city authorities are the gold-digging Google gangsters operating on dating sites where they fool lonely hearts into believing that they have found a perfect partner and then con them into "lending" tens of thousands of pounds which the duped dates never see again.

"The Met told us that in the last few months it had seen 37 cases involving online dating scams," the committee reported.

"The total loss to individuals in these scams was £1.7 million, which meant that, on average, each victim lost £48,000 - in one case, a victim lost £440,000."

The report cites the example of a London woman who was left so embarrassed and depressed after cyber violation by a rip-off Romeo that she felt she

could have killed herself.

"She was in her 60s. She explained that she had recently been divorced from her husband and that she was having a new lease of life and embracing her retirement.

"She was financially secure and she felt that she wanted to create a larger social network. She met an individual online and over a series of many months she lost over £80,000 to this man.

"She explained to us that, yes, the financial loss was significant to her because it was part of her life savings and it was her financial security, but what was more important to her was the fact that she became so depressed.

"She felt she could not trust anyone. She felt that she had been stupid. She was embarrassed. She got so low that she almost considered suicide."

The report reveals that a survey of Londoners shows that their biggest fear of theft or fraud is from scams online – with 63% saying they feared internet fraud more than burglary, theft of possessions and theft from their car.

Online attacks

The crime committee warned that the Met has identified almost 30 criminal cyber gangs operating in the capital – with at least six times as many other gangs launching online attacks on Londoners from abroad.

"Even within London, the range of perpetrators is broad," reported the committee.

"Organised crime groups are responsible for an element of online crime in London, but the precise number of these groups is unknown. The Deputy

Mayor for Policing and Crime told us that there are currently 28 organised crime groups involved in cyber-crime in London, specialising in crimes such as banking and credit card fraud, account takeover, phishing, identity theft and payment card crime.

"But other reports have indicated that around 200 gangs from around the world are targeting London using the Internet."

The committee has called on Mayor Boris Johnson to launch a London-wide campaign in partnership with the City of London Police, banks and other key stakeholders to raise awareness of the threat of online crime.

The report also recommends that the Met Police should appoint a senior ranking officer responsible to ensure that "the whole force is prepared to tackle online crime – not just the Met's new Fraud and Linked Crime Online (FALCON) Command".

Roger Evans, chairman of the Assembly's Online Crime Working Group, said: "A worrying trend is emerging in the rise of online crime. Criminals can now target large numbers of people for little or no cost and with only limited technical knowledge. E-mail scams have become a low-risk, high-gain form of theft for criminals.

"Our report makes recommendations which we believe will help tackle the very real threat of online crime head on. Londoners need to be savvy to the large number of criminals now operating from their laptops rather than our streets. We must create a police force that bears down on criminals who feel that the internet is their safe haven."

Four designs shortlisted for £40m river bridge to Pimlico

FOUR bridge designs have been shortlisted for the new £40 million crossing that will span the Thames between Nine Elms and Pimlico.

Three of the chosen entries are suspension bridges, while the fourth is a bowstring arch. They were whittled down from 74 that were submitted as part of a global design competition.

Arup, among the world's biggest consulting engineer firms, had two of its designs chosen and now stands a 50/50 chance of winning the contract to build it.

Two other multinational companies, one based in Denmark and the other in Bath, had their designs chosen by a judging panel that includes Wandsworth council leader Ravi Govindia and architect Graham Stirk.

In coming to their decision, the panel considered feedback from more than 1,000 people who responded to a series of public exhibitions, as well as detailed technical assessments for each proposal.

The next stage of the competition will see the shortlisted teams develop their initial ideas into detailed designs.

Wandsworth council expects to announce the winning team in late autumn.

The new bridge, for cyclists and pedestrians, would require planning permission before it could be built.

Councillor Govindia, said: "I want to thank the jury panel and all of the designers who took part and made this such an exciting process.

"The quality of the submissions went beyond our best expectations and the interest this competition has generated across London has been tremendous.

"Congratulations to our shortlisted teams and I look forward to seeing their initial ideas developed further.

"The devil will be in the detail and the next stage will show us whether these four highly skilled and innovative design teams can meet the complex challenges this project presents."

A Transport for London transport study confirms the Nine Elms to Pimlico bridge has a "strong business case" and would provide a valuable route

through central London and help reduce car dependence.

A £26million contribution to the project will come from Nine Elms developers, with the remaining money needed for the bridge still to be found.

Find out more by going to www.nep-bridgecompetition.co.uk



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Happy faces, lively minds



■ This is the first in an occasional series focussing on the primary schools in central and West London. We start with a visit to St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School in Chelsea ...

Words: Philip Evans
Photos: Richard Austin

SITUATED in the heart of Chelsea, St Joseph's Roman Catholic Primary School in Cadogan Street forms an important role in the lively and thriving Catholic community, being surrounded by St Mary's RC Parish and the Thomas More Language College.

An hour spent among the 225 pupils of St Joseph's and it's clear to see this is a school where happy faces abound and community spirit is strong.

This spirit has clearly been recognised in the school's Ofsted reports with St Joseph's being classed in the top one per cent nationally for their added value score in 2013 and 2014.

A glance at the school website will show how active pupils are outside the classroom from raising £256 recently from a cake stall for Comic Relief to members of the School Council being invited to the Mayor's Parlour where they met the current Mayor, Cllr Maighread Condon-Simmonds, and the Deputy Mace Bearer, Mr Filip Trzebiatowski.

Fascinated

The children thoroughly enjoyed their tour of the Parlour and were fascinated by the official robes worn by the Mayor. They viewed some of the paintings on display, such as a portrait of Sir Hans Sloane and the young Queen Victoria.

The Mayor discussed the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's motto 'Quam Bonum in Unum Habitare', the opening words of the 133rd Psalm in Latin and translates as "What a good thing it is to dwell in unity". The children also went into the Council Chambers where they learnt about how formal meetings are conducted.

Headteacher Karen Wyatt says: "We thoroughly enjoy being part of this vibrant, multicultural community and our staff are enthusiastic and dedicated.

"You will find our children are articulate, bright, young people and as a community we have high aspirations for them."

St Joseph's has close links with St Mary's Church. The origins of St Mary's were close to the present church, on a 99-year leasehold site at 105 Cadogan Gardens (then known as Cadogan Terrace). This is where, in 1812, the first Catholic Chapel in Chelsea, and one of the first in the country since the Reformation, was erected. It had been es-



■ **HEADTEACHER Karen Wyatt:** high aspirations for her pupils

tablished by Abbé Jean Voyaux de Franous, who arrived in London in 1793. The Abbé had been given special charge of the spiritual welfare of the veteran soldiers at Chelsea College (now known as the Royal Hospital and the home to the Chelsea Pensioners) as well as the soldiers at the Chelsea and Knightsbridge Barracks. He had launched an appeal for funds in England and in France to build the chapel which he intended to be primarily for the use of soldiers and the veterans of the Royal Hospital.

When the Abbé died in 1840 after 40 years of service to his parish, his work was continued by many dedicated people including, especially, Joseph and Mary Knight. They planned a Catholic foundation in the parish and purchased, for £5,000, two and a half acres of land, which had formerly been the Wellington Cricket Ground. This is now the Cadogan Street/Draycott Terrace site, which contains the current Church together with St Joseph's Primary School, St Thomas More Language College and the St Joseph's Almshouses.



St Joseph's RC Primary School, Chelsea

LWN



More school news on page 19

Thanksgiving for the life of Sir Richard Attenborough

FAMILY, friends and well-known faces from the world of showbusiness and politics attended a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Lord Attenborough CBE at Westminster Abbey this week.

Richard Attenborough, who died aged 90 in Au-



■ **THANKSGIVING for the life of Sir Richard Attenborough**

Remember a loved one with a lily

WESTMINSTER Cathedral will be decorated with lilies and other flowers at Easter.

If you would like to buy a lily in memory of a departed friend or family member, please place the name, together with suggested offering of £5 per lily, in an Easter Lily envelope available from the back of the cathedral.

These may be handed in to Clergy House Reception or placed in one of the collection boxes around the cathedral.

gust 2014, was one of Britain's leading actors during the middle of the 20th century, before becoming a highly successful director.

His films as an actor included Brighton Rock, The Great Escape and Jurassic Park. As director he is best known for A Bridge Too Far, Gandhi, for which he won Academy Awards as director and producer in 1982, and Cry Freedom, about the death of South African anti-apartheid campaigner Steven Biko.

The service was conducted by the Dean of Westminster, the Very Reverend Dr John Hall, who said in his bidding: "We come to this holy place at the centre of our nation's life, where for over a thousand years kings and queens have been anointed and crowned, and where they and the greatest men and women of our history have been commemorated and buried. Here amongst them are remembered stars of stage and screen.

"We come to celebrate the life and achievement of Richard Attenborough, a truly great man, certainly a star of stage and screen, but also a pioneer film-maker, and exemplary leader of his profession, a man of deep commitment, of great generosity of spirit, and of personal warmth.

Inspire and inform others

"We shall give thanks to almighty God for him and pray for him a place of light and peace and eternal joyful surprise. We shall also pray that his story might continue to inspire and inform others to follow his example, that our world might become a little brighter and better."

The address was given by fellow film-maker Lord David Puttnam CBE.

Lord Attenborough's brother, Sir David Attenborough, read from his maiden speech to the House of Lords, and actors Sir Ben Kingsley and Geraldine James read from The Writings of Gandhi. Penelope Wilton and Tom Hiddleston also gave readings.

Unnati Dasgupta, soprano, sang Raghupati Raghava Raja Ram from Shri Nama Ramayanam.

Prayers were led by the Reverend Dr James Hawkey and said by Jaygann Ayeh, Tamara Lawrence, Caolan McCarthy and Rosie Sheehy, all students from the Royal Academy of Dramatic

Art, and the Reverend Jane Sinclair.

The service was sung by the Westminster Abbey special service choir, conducted by James O'Donnell, organist and master of the choristers. The organ was played by Daniel Cook while Martin Ford played before the service.

Writing for the London Weekly News every week, London's most outspoken entrepreneur Charlie Pipes Up!



Apprenticeship training imperative for the future of the UK's workforce

National Apprenticeship Week was a huge success highlighting the positive impact apprentices - and the businesses that back them - have on the economy.

However, behind the fanfare, it's important to strip it back to the main point, without a skilled workforce we might as well all pack up and go home!

An education system devoid of practical, workplace-based training will hold back the economy, see unemployment skyrocket and see all manner of businesses, from plumbers to car manufacturers and everything in between, go to the wall.

In recent years, though, things have changed and apprenticeships are now seen as a more valid alternative to classroom-only further and higher education and businesses across a lot of sectors are trying their best to embrace apprentices within their workforce.

The current government has done a lot of work to make this happen, supported by a growing number of businesses, including mine.

Pimlico Plumbers took part in a range of events last week including taking Skills Minister Nick Boles 'out on the tools' with one of our apprentices.

We kicked off the week at Barking & Dagenham College before heading over to the House of Commons for the SME Made by Apprentices Reception, which was aimed at SMEs to high-

light the benefits of apprenticeships to both employers and apprentices.

This is definitely my sort of event and it's great to see such great encouragement to get more youngsters into apprenticeships and also more businesses to take them on.

One of our youngsters, Antonia, who's on a plumbing apprenticeship also came along with us and was able to talk about why she decided to become an apprentice.

Although many businesses that were there were already drinking from the same teapot on apprenticeships, it was good to see some there who were just beginning to consider taking on apprentices.

It was great to hear from Nick Boles at the event who then swapped the Palace of Westminster for Pimlico Plumbers HQ to meet our youngsters and to shadow Antonia on a job she was called out to.

He saw first-hand the benefits of employing apprentices and I hope took on board my ideas for a fully-funded apprenticeship scheme.

To get more youngsters into apprenticeships and encourage businesses to increase apprenticeship numbers, we need a fully-funded scheme that diverts Job Seekers' Allowance from the unemployed to employers who can use it to pay for the training.

It's common sense because we need apprenticeships to be at the core of the country's workforce development. For young people, businesses and the economy, it's imperative.

Views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of this newspaper



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LONDON WEEKLY NEWS

Letter to the Editor

'Huge stress and anxiety' over loss of homes

AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES IN THE CONSTITUENCY OF KENSINGTON

■ I AM writing to you as a Prospective Parliamentary Candidate at the forthcoming election for the Kensington constituency in which I live.

I am sure you will be aware of plans by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea for the Warwick Road Estate, in which I and another 200 plus people live (116 households) in a very settled and long established community in your constituency.

One of the four options the Royal Borough is considering is a plan to demolish all our homes and scatter the community to 'who knows where'! This is

Option 4. And there are other viable options where we would keep our homes.

I have been asked by many of the residents to write to you to ask if you will commit, as part of your election pledge, to oppose the demolition of our homes as contained in Option 4.

When I have received your reply, and those of your opponents in the election who I am also writing to, I will circulate them to all the residents of the estate so that they can make their decisions on how to cast their ballot on May 7.

I know as a candidate you will more than understand the huge stress and anxiety the proposed loss of our homes is to our community in Kensington - particularly the elderly, disabled and more vulnerable

residents. With this in mind, I look forward to an early reply so your views can be shared with your voters on what is for us, a pivotal aspect in how we will choose to vote on May 7th.

Annie Redmile
Chesterton Square W8

Slow broadband

■ IF, like me, you think that your broadband connection is sometimes a little slow, you are not imagining things. A recent House of Lords' report reveals that London suffers from a slower broadband service compared to other European capitals.

In fact, London has slumped to 26th place in the league of European capital broadband speeds. It takes three times as long to download a document in London than it does in Paris. Tiny Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland has a download speed twice as fast as London, and even the capital of the former communist state of Romania "contrasted drastically", according

to the report's authors. London does not perform well even within the UK, and was in an astonishing 38th place in the top 40 of British cities and towns.

London is one of the major communications hubs in the world, as well as being a leading global centre for financial services. If we want to maintain and enhance this status we need action. When the Mayor of London held a summit with major internet companies last summer, they agreed to set up an advisory group to promote super-fast connections across the capital. But we need the Mayor, the Government and local authorities to work together with each other and with communications network suppliers to tear down the barriers to investment in faster services in London.

The Chairman of the House of Lords Committee that wrote the report, Baroness Morgan rightly described the internet as being "as important to our future economic success as electricity was in the past." The future lies online and we have to equip ourselves with a broadband speed that will allow us to thrive.

Syed Kamall
MEP for London

Concerts at the Royal Hospital

THE Royal Hospital Chelsea has announced that it will host a special concert series within the historic home of the Chelsea Pensioners this June.

'Live At Chelsea' will take place in a fully seated auditorium in Figure Court, the Royal Hospital Chelsea's central courtyard, on three consecutive nights.

Major General David McDowall CBE, Lieutenant Governor and Chief Executive Officer of the Royal Hospital Chelsea, said: "We are very much looking forward to welcoming music fans into the Royal Hospital Chelsea this summer, especially those who have not visited this historical home before."

"A portion of the ticket sale proceeds will go towards funding the care of the Chelsea Pensioners, as well as the ongoing maintenance of the Grade I listed site."

"All who manage to get tickets

are guaranteed to experience a very special evening."

Friday, June 12th will see Rufus Wainwright perform at Live At Chelsea. Rufus has established himself as one of the great male vocalists and songwriters of his generation working in the world of Opera as well as collaborating with artists such as Robbie Williams, Elton John, David Byrne, Boy George, Joni Mitchell, Pet Shop Boys and producer Mark Ronson.

The following night (Saturday, June 13th) Irish singer songwriter Damien Rice will perform his only London show of the summer, in support of his hugely successful third album 'My Favourite Faded Fantasy' his first new release in eight years.

The final Live At Chelsea show for 2015 on Sunday, June 14th will feature Alison Moyet, playing her only London show of the Summer. Alison (pictured) returned to her electro roots when she released her eighth solo

album 'the minutes' to critical acclaim in 2013, followed by the live album 'minutes & seconds' in 2014. This gig will place 'the minutes' centre stage and focus on the significant electronic material in her back catalogue.

Tickets for Live At Chelsea and exclusive hospitality packages are on sale 9am Friday 27 February from www.liveatchelsea.com, www.seetickets.com and www.ticketmaster.com. The ticket hotline is 0844 871 8803.

Friends and supporters of the Royal Hospital Chelsea are eligible to buy priority tickets.



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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Are you US Citizen or a Green card holder living in UK? Are you British Citizen who had worked in the United States during the last calendar now moved back to UK permanently or received any US base related income Are you confused if you still have a US Tax Filing or FATCA Filing Requirement?

Below are answers to some of most common questions with regards to US tax filings and FATCA informational forms filing requirement.

I am an American living and working in United Kingdom. Do I need to file a US tax return?

All US Citizens and Green card holders are required to file a US return, no matter where they live, as long as their income earned in the USA and abroad (UK/other foreign country) is just over \$9,350 (roughly about £5600). Many expatriates wrongly assume that because they live and work in the UK they only owe taxes to HMRC and do not owe any taxes to Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in the USA. There are other group of people who have some financial background knowledge, who wrongly assume as an expatriate they are eligible to claim the foreign earned income exclusion which is around (\$99,200) and with their income level being below this threshold limit they do not have to file US tax return. It's an partially correct understanding that you would not owe taxes under certain circumstances. However in order to claim the valid exclusions and foreign tax credits you still definitely have an US tax filing obligation. So do not be under wrong impression just because your taxes would be zero, you do not have to have to file your US tax return.

I am a British/Foreign National worked in USA last year/ received some US related income. Do I need to file a US tax return?

If you're an foreign national worked in the USA during the past calendar tax year and have moved back to your home country permanently now or if you received any US source related income (i.e. rental real estate, Share vest income, Dividends, royalties etc.) you may be subject to US tax filing requirement if you meet the 183 days presence test which is often referred to as Substantial Presence Test (SPT) or Green card test. In addition if you received \$3,950 or more of effectively connected income from US trade or business, you have a US tax filing requirement. Other circumstances includes, If you had any wrong tax withholding by your USA based withholding agents on your royalty and other source income, it may be worth filing an US tax return to claim the refund for excess tax withholding by reporting the income and claiming the appropriate tax treaty benefits between US and UK. It's recommended to take tax advice on the treaty claims reporting.

I already pay taxes in the UK. Can I take the benefit of these taxes paid via PAYE and Self-Assessment on my US tax return?

Yes, certainly you can, tax you owe to the US on foreign income can be substantially reduced or even zero if you have already been taxed on the same income in your country of residence. You can claim these paid taxes as foreign tax credits on your 1040 Federal return.

However a careful tax planning needs to be done by expatriates who are US citizens and Green card holders who are not employed individuals and who run their own limited company or partnership with directorship, shareholding positions. Self-employed individuals run a much higher risk of being double taxed and you should contact an international tax professional tax advisors for optimal structure of your entity set up claim the appropriate treaty position and elections (Entity classification/Check the box elections) to avoid double taxation of same income being taxed by different countries

What are the filing status options available to file my tax return in the US?

For US Citizens/Green Card holders/Resident Aliens

- Single
- Married Filing Separate (MFS)
- Married Filing Joint (MFJ)
- Head of Household (HOH)

You can claim personal exemption here for yourself and your dependents who have an valid:

Social Security (SSN)/
Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN)

Foreign Nationals/Non-Resident Aliens

- Single
- Other married non resident

You can only claim one personal exemption for taxpayer only and cannot claim dependent personal exemptions like with other tax return filing.

I am an American married to British National. Can I claim my spouse as my dependent on my tax return, if I opt to file Married filing joint tax (MFJ) return?

Yes, certainly you can if this would be an optimal tax filing option with your income levels, if you are married to foreign national and if your spouse is not eligible to get an Social Security Number (SSN) then you got to apply for Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) by filing a Form W-7 application along with tax return, however when you file the Form W-7 application your spouse foreign national identify proof document (i.e. passports) copy needs to be certified by an CAA (Certified Acceptance Agents) or the issuing authority. If you do not wish to use a CAA you will have to send the original passport along with application. The normal ITIN application processing time by the IRS is 6-8 weeks.

What the difference between EIN and ITIN?

EIN (Employer Identification Number)

1. An EIN can be used to identify a business entity that is legally separate from yourself, such as your corporation, partnership or retirement plan. Generally, businesses need an EIN. However sole proprietor with no employees can use their ITIN or SSN as entity identification number.
EIN Format Example: 98-XXXXXXX

2. Form SS-4 needs to completed, no CAA verification of passport required

3. EIN is required to operate business in US.

ITIN (Individual Tax Identification Number)

An ITIN, or Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, is a tax processing number only available for certain non-resident and resident aliens, their spouses, and dependents who cannot get a Social Security Number (SSN)

ITIN Format Example : 9XX-88-XXXX

ITIN application needs CAA verification of foreign status documents required, if not certified by issuing authority or if original passports not sent with ITIN application

ITIN is required to file US tax return, Claim tax treaty benefit tax withholding claim via Form W8 BEN etc.

What forms do I need to file with tax return as US Citizens or Foreign National? The listed ones are most common one.

For US Citizens/Green Card holders/Resident Aliens

- Form 1040 (income/exemptions/credits/taxes)
- Form 2555 (for foreign income exclusion)
- Form 1116 (for foreign tax credit)
- Form 8938 (FATCA since 2011 tax year if (financial assets value exceeds limits)

Foreign Nationals/Non Resident Aliens (NRA)

- Form 1040NR
- Form 8833 (for treaty claim)

Apart from above listedforms what other forms I need to report/file when is the due date, what are the penalty charges for not filing this form on time?

Form Number Who needs to file Due Date Penalty for not filing

Form 4868 Extension time to file tax 15th April If you owe tax on 1040 return by 15th October 15th Junelate filing penalty applies on 1040 tax return

Fincent114/FBAR Foreign Bank Account 30th June Minimum penalty of \$10,000 Reporting/FATCA every year or up to 50% maximum Reporting balancein foreign bank.
This filing is required if accounts. If this action was combined total balance wilfully done by taxpayer then at all of the foreign bank criminal procedures applies accounts exceeds \$10,000 or more.

Form 3520/3520A Foreign Trust Reporting 15th March \$10,000 plus interest 15th September and penalty for taxes (Extended) due (if any)

Form 5471 US Person with Foreign To be filed when \$10,000 plus interest Corporation (i.e. for the tax return is due and penalty to taxes example US Citizens due (if any).
With 10% or more shareholding in UK incorporated Ltd Company or partnership.

Form 1040 US Personal Tax Return 15th April. If you owe any taxes 15th June (if living interest, penalties, outside of US)late filing penalty charges are applicable.

Form 1040/NR Non-Resident Tax 15th October
Return Filing extended deadline date

What is this FATCA all about now?

FATCA Stands for Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA). In order to help IRS to track those Americans who are not reporting their foreign income, IRS and the US Treasury have recently instituted a number of informational forms that must be filed. FATCA law requires all foreign financial institutions banks, brokers, pension funds, insurance companies, hedge funds, mutual funds, trusts to report to the IRS holdings of their clients who are US persons. This will come into force on January 1, 2014 and will allow the IRS to cross-check between reports of foreign financial institutions and individual filings of tax returns. Institutions that do not comply will have a 30% withholding tax imposed on all transactions concerning US securities. In addition, FATCA will require that any foreign company not listed on a stock exchange or any foreign partnership which has 10% U.S. ownership to report to the IRS the names and tax I.D. number (TIN) of any US owner.

I'm US citizen moved to UK long time ago. I had no clue about my US tax filing requirements. I'm way behind my tax filings, FBAR filings. What do I do now?

Well the good news is, if have not been contacted by the IRS in the past and in all honesty if your actions were not wilful to declare your income or information returns, then IRS has come with a new Foreign Offshore Streamlined Filing Process scheme With this filing procedure you got to take these actions as listed below to avoid heavy penalties and criminal proceedings for non-compliance.

- 1) File your last 3 years US tax returns including all informational returns.
- 2) File your last 6 years Foreign Bank Account Reporting Information.
- 3) Sign a non-wilful conduct certification explaining your valid reason for late filing.

Once you are back on the IRS compliance system, it is your responsibility that you do not miss your tax filings in the future. Good Luck!

The above FAQ should be of help to US citizens living abroad. The article is an overview of US tax filing and additional FATCA reporting forms awareness, US tax are complex, each individual filing and reporting requirements varies based on the complexity of income level, tax treaty position etc. If you are unsure of the reporting requirement, please seek professional advice.

This article is contributed by Kader Jawali Ameen, EA. US Expatriate Tax specialist, founder of Tax And Accounting Hub. Prior to joining TAH Kader worked for Big 4 Accountancy firms based in India, Macau, Hong Kong and London, in his 14 years of US tax experience he has dealt with handling Complex US personal tax compliance issuesfor leading investment bank employees, private HNW clients, recently in the past 2 years he has helped many expatriates with the delinquent tax return and streamlined Foreign Offshore Filing procedure and compliance work. Kader is also one of CAA(Certified Acceptance Agent) approved by IRS based in London, who can assist individuals with Form W-7 ITIN Application, Form W8 BEN.

Kader Ameen can be reached by Email: kader@taxandaccountinghub.com.

Direct phone line: +447914 393 183. Visit www.Taxandaccountinghub.com if you need US tax return assistances.



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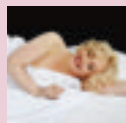
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There is a special section where you can meet our staff and contact us and also view public notices from local authorities and government agencies.

Joint managing director Karen Sheppard commented: "All the news, features and advertising content in our newspapers are now available 24 hours a day from anywhere in the world, accessible on your computer, laptop and mobile phone."

There is also a direct link to the official website of the Portobello and Golborne Market, which this year is celebrating its 150th anniversary.

Watch out for future developments on our website which will include a free page for all community organisations.

www.londonweeklynews.co.uk



Celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Portobello & Golborne Market in Notting Hill For full details go to the website

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'Please don't give us gifts' - donate to charity instead

With a new baby on the horizon - what will happen to all the presents?

By Geoff Baker



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WEEKLY News

ISSUE 15

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Thursday, March 26th 2015

LWN
ROYAL
SPECIAL

What comes next for Prince Harry?

AFTER HIS DECISION TO QUIT THE ARMY - WILL 'THE LADS' BE HARRY'S NEXT CHALLENGE?

By Geoff Baker

PRINCE Harry is considering a pioneering new job option, heading up a Help For Heroes-style task force for the Commonwealth.

Following his decision to quit the Army, the soldier prince is planning his future and royal-watchers are predicting that it most probably lies where his heart is – a commitment never to forget his comrades in arms.

Harry has already won much respect for his work to champion Help For Heroes. But the popular charity works only to help UK Servicemen and women who have been left wounded, sick or psychologically-damaged by serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Now pundits believe Harry is poised to expand the acclaimed role of Help For Heroes by heading up a global charity that would aim to help damaged Servicemen and women from all of the Commonwealth's 53 member states.

An ambitious such move would meet with the

approval of The Queen, who has always been keen on an inclusive policy with the Commonwealth, which she herself has long championed throughout her reign.

TURN to page 3



Photo by RAY TANG/REX

■ A THOUGHTFUL Prince Harry is pictured this week at the launch of Walking With The Wounded - Walk of Britain 2015.

The Prince, who is Patron of the charity to support and help re-integrate wounded ex-service personnel into civilian life, announced at the launch, at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Knightsbridge, that he will join the 1,000 mile expedition, which starts in Scotland on August 22nd and ends in London on October 31st.

Prince Harry said: "The public's support for our Armed Forces continues to be extraordinary.

"However, as the memory of our military commitments in Iraq and Afghanistan fade, we must encourage people to continue supporting our servicemen and women; particularly those who are seeking to transition into civilian life.

"This process can be challenging, as it is for anyone seeking a new career. As I make this transition myself, I'm determined to do all I can to help others."

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ROYAL LONDON

Could a Help for Heroes role be on the cards?

Prince Harry takes time to consider his future

FROM page 13

It would also be favoured by Prince Charles, who is putting his immediate family “ducks in a row” in preparation for his time as King and the “new monarchy” which he plans for when he takes the throne.

It is well known that Charles plans a new, more-visibly-caring monarchy representing the issues that mean most to him. He has given himself the key role of leading on environmental issues, Prince William has been delegated the as-important task of championing conservation and youth work and the Duchess of Cornwall and the Duchess of Cambridge have taken on the causes of Britain’s needy and disadvantaged.

It would fit perfectly with “the new plan” for Harry to now expand the work for heroes, especially because so many Commonwealth Servicemen have been injured and left in need of help by their countries’ involvement in the increasing number of conflicts of recent years.

Continue his good work

Heading up some sort of Help For Heroes International as a civilian would not only be supported around the world, it would also allow Harry to continue his good work without being frustrated and fettered by the politics at the Ministry of Defence.

Earlier this year Harry took on a new Army posting when he joined the London District’s Personnel Recovery Unit, which supports injured and damaged Servicemen trying to return to duty or adapt civilian life.

But the posting must have been a frustration to him because although Harry served two tours in Afghanistan and understands the reality of warfare, the MoD is at odds with that reality. Help For

Heroes, which is closely involved with the work of the Personnel Recovery Unit, argues that some 75,000 of the 220,560 Servicemen and women who served in Iraq and Afghanistan are in need of help.

However, The Ministry of Defence says “it does not recognise these figures” and that head-in-the-sand denial by civil service deskmen must have been a bitter disappointment to those, like Harry, who know that there is more work to be done than is bureaucratically-recognised.

“If you look at the future jobs that are available to him, it all points to him continuing his passion to keep on campaigning for his comrades,” said one royal-watcher.

“Quite a number of ex-Servicemen go into The City, well he’s not going to do that is he? That would paint a dreadful picture of the monarchy and besides it’s not the sort of thing that he or any of his immediate family stand for.

“Equally, no matter how much any Government might like him to, he’s not going to take up a new job as some sort of roving ambassador for British trade relations because he’s got far more to give than just schmoozing businessmen at embassy receptions. He would be bored stiff.

“It’s much more likely that Harry will follow his heart and his heart lies with his old Service mates; ‘the lads’, as he calls them. Harry cares desperately about those who have been damaged by war in which he also served, he’s always writing to relatives of the fallen and to understand his attitude there you only need to look at what he said when the bureaucrats tried to prevent him serving in the front line.”

On that occasion, when authorities were resisting Harry’s posting to the war zone, he kicked up with a fierce independence worthy of his father and

memorably said: “There’s no way I’m going to put myself through Sandhurst and then sit on my arse back home while my boys are out fighting for their country”.

The operative words were “my boys” and they revealed the great loyalty to the troops that he further revealed three years ago when he received an award in the USA for his work helping injured and damaged Servicemen and women to recover and adjust.

In accepting the award he dedicated it “the guys” and tellingly added: “The very least we owe them is that they and their families have everything they need for their darkest days – we must be there for our Servicemen and women and their families, standing shoulder-to-shoulder with them always”.

It was the “always” in his speech that points most to the Harry’s future now. Here is a prince pledged never to forget his mates.



■ IN LIGHTER MOOD: On Thursday of this week Prince Harry was at Bagshot to watch the England Rugby team in training
Photo: REX

WHERE TO SEE YOUR FAVOURITE ROYAL

FULL details of future and recent events in the ever-busy diaries of the many members of The Royal Family are available from the official website www.royal.gov.uk but here’s the London schedule for the week ahead for Where To See A Royal.

● Tuesday March 24th

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Patron of Action Medical Research, will hold a reception at Buckingham Palace.

The Duchess of Gloucester, as Patron of Sue Ryder Thorpe House Hospice Appeal, will attend a dinner at St James’s Palace.

● Wednesday March 25th

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Patron, will attend receptions at St James’s Palace for young people who have achieved the gold standard of the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as honorary member of the Smeatonian Society of Civil Engineers, will attend a dinner at Great George Street SW1.

The Earl of Wessex, as Trustee of the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, will hold a dinner at Buckingham Palace.

The Earl of Wessex, as Trustee of the Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award Foundation, will hold a development group meeting at Buckingham Palace.

● Thursday March 26th

The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall, as joint presidents of Elephant Family, will host a reception to launch the Travels With My Elephant rickshaw race at Clarence House.

The Earl of Wessex, as Trustee of the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award, will attend a breakfast meeting at The Savoy Hotel.

The Earl of Wessex, as Patron of Northern Ballet, will hold a lunch at Buckingham Palace and will attend a performance at Sadler’s Wells Theatre EC1.

● Tuesday March 31st

The Princess Royal, as chair of the International Olympic Committee Nomination Commission, will hold a dinner at Buckingham Palace.

The Duke of Kent, as Patron of The Hanover Band, will attend the Royal Marsden Benefit Concert at St Andrew’s Church EC4.

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The Queen visits Battersea Dogs' Home - but can't be tempted by another corgi

SADLY for Beama the corgi, there were no royal takers when The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visited Battersea Dogs and Cats Home last week.

Eleven-year-old Beama has been in the Battersea kennels for a week waiting for a new owner, and on Tuesday the ideal one turned up.

So he was dressed up in a Union Jack and exhibited on a cushion in prime position as Battersea's celebrity ambassadors Paul O'Grady and Amanda Holden lobbied on his behalf.

"You're not tempted to take a corgi home Ma'am?" asked Amanda.

"Not at the moment," replied The Queen, as Beama slumped back onto the cushion in resignation.

The Queen was making her first visit to the dogs home since 1991 to open a wing of 56 new ken-

nels to add to the 258 that the rescue centre operates to home the capital's unwanted pets.

Although The Queen has owned 30 corgis, she now has just two, Holly and Willow, and dorgis Candy and Vulcan, and she has decided to have no more.

"Her Majesty seemed fascinated by Beama but unfortunately she wasn't in the market," said Paul O'Grady.

"He's not snappy, he's a really good-natured dog and if I didn't already have five dogs myself I would be tempted to take him.

"But now that he has met Her Majesty at least we can say that he is by Royal Appointment and put that on his kennel."

A spokesman for the dogs home said Beama was sure to be re-homed soon.

"Now that he's been photographed with The Queen, I'm sure he'll be snapped up," she said.



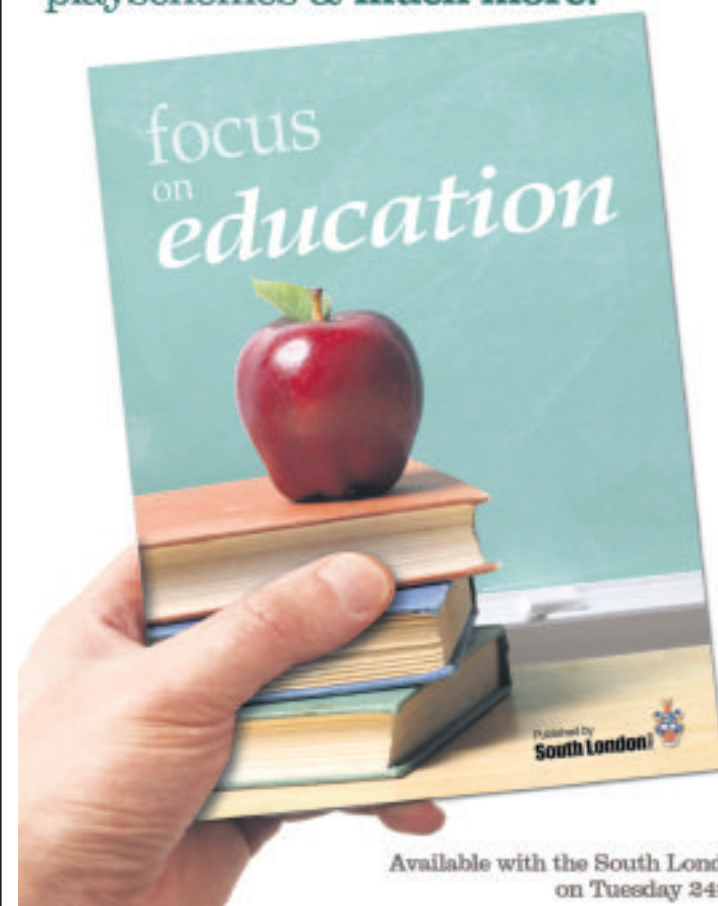
■ HER MAJESTY The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh arrive for a private visit to Battersea Dogs and Cats Home



■ THE Queen is introduced to Battersea ambassador Amanda Holden and, below is introduced to Beama, the corgi, by Paul O'Grady



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Available with the South London Press on Tuesday 24th March

SHOWBIZ SPECIAL*Out There tour comes to the O2 and you could be there*

It's the greatest show on earth - and we've got a pair of tickets to be won by the luckiest reader of the year

WIN tickets to see Macca!

By Geoff Baker

PAUL McCartney's universally-acclaimed, all-hits, rock and roll stormtrooper of a world tour is coming to the O2 in May – and it will mark his 50th gig in the capital in the past 30 years.

Macca's two concerts at the O2 – on May 23rd and 24th – will be so sold-out by the time that he hits the stage there won't be a spare seat in the house for even the Mayor of London.

But you could be there – for the most magical music experience of your lifetime.

The Paul McCartney show is like nothing you have ever seen before – a heart-pumping, tear-jerking, foot-stomping, dance-making marathon of the greatest songs ever written.

The sheer length of the hits-stacked set of Macca's "Out There" tour smashes everything that has gone before it – some 39 songs spanning the entire career of the legend who is renowned as the chairman of the board of rock and roll.

Classic after classic is faultlessly performed by Paul and his crack band in a show that stretches to almost three hours.

The show includes at least 25 Beatles anthems along with hits from his Wings and solo periods, coming bang up to date with favourites from his acclaimed latest studio album, "New".

The set at one of his recent gigs included: Get Back, Paperback Writer, Maybe I'm Amazed, Blackbird, Lovely Rita, Live And Let Die, We Can Work It Out, Back In The USSR, Magical Mystery Tour, Another Day, Everybody Out There, Helter Skelter, Eleanor Rigby, Let It Be, Hey Jude, Day Tripper and two hour's worth more besides.

Best-loved

And, defying all previously-known limits of boundless energy, Macca never leaves the stage for a minute as he roars and soothes through a set of best-loved rock and ballads that, to date, has left almost two million people all over the planet with a rock knight to remember for the rest of their lives.

Paul's leviathan "Out There" tour is now running in its second year, logging 64 shows and smashing box office records in 12 countries including the USA, Canada, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Uruguay, Italy and Poland.

Now, as it gets "Out There" on the European leg of the tour which has already grossed more than £150 million, Paul is bringing his show home with just four UK nights, in London, Birmingham and Liverpool.

Paul, currently enjoying global chart success with 'FourFiveSeconds', a collaboration with Kanye West and Rihanna, has a special highlight to celebrate at his home-coming - the O2 shows will coincide with the 50th anniversary of one of the world's most loved and most popular songs of all time, 'Yesterday'.

Although the exact writing dates remain uncertain, it will be 50 years this May since Paul finished writing the classic anthem and cross-generational song that continues to stand the test of time.

He is first said to have composed the melody in a dream whilst living at Jane Asher's family home in Wimpole Street, London. Famously, the working title of the song remained as 'Scrambled Eggs' for some time afterwards while Paul worked out the exact lyrics. In late May 1965, he finally completed the 'Yesterday' we all know and love today during a long drive on holiday in Portugal.

Paul then began recording the track at Abbey Road on June 14th 1965 and it later appeared on



The Beatles' fifth studio album 'Help!' The rest is music legend. Although originally not released as a single in the UK, 'Yesterday' went on to top the charts across the world including reaching the Number 1 spot on the US Billboard Hot 100.

The song went on to win countless awards including the Ivor Novello Award for 'Outstanding Song of 1965'. 'Yesterday' was also voted the 'Best Song of the 20th Century' in a Radio 2 poll in 1999 and was the third most played song on US radio in the 20th century. Guinness World Records has even declared it to be the most covered song ever written, with over 2,200 versions of the song having been recorded around the world by 2013.

Even Paul's very own hero, Chuck Berry, has said 'Yesterday' is the one song he wishes he had written himself.

Speaking about the anniversary, Paul said, "I'm often never aware of these anniversaries until someone points it out. People always say to me 'hey, did you know it was 30 years since this and 30 years since that', so it's impossible to stay on top of it all."

"But I never need an excuse to celebrate so it's always nice to hear! For me it's a happy coincidence that The O2 show falls at this time."

"It's great that people all over the world reacted

so well to the song, it's all you can hope for! It feels like it has taken on a life of its own over the years.

"The song still is and always has been an important part of our live show. It's always very emotional for me to hear crowds singing it so loudly at my concerts and I'm looking forward to singing it along with the audience at the O2 in May."

The concerts at The O2 Arena also mark another special career moment for Paul as the first will be his 50th solo performance in the UK's capital since appearing at Live Aid in 1985.

Iconic venues

Since then, Paul has performed in a number of London's most iconic venues and locations including The 100 Club, Royal Albert Hall, Earl's Court, Electric Ballroom, St James's Palace, The Mean Fiddler, the ICA, Roundhouse, Battersea Power Station, Hyde Park, the Olympic Stadium and Buckingham Palace. His most recent London performance was in 2013 when he played a pop-up show in Covent Garden's Piazza.

It is also fitting that Paul celebrates his 50th London solo performance at The O2. As well as playing there twice previously in 2009 and 2011, Paul used the Millennium Dome (as it was then known) as a rehearsal space in 2004 for his mas-

sive stadium '04 Summer Tour' which ended with Paul's headlining performance at Glastonbury, widely-agreed to be one of the festival's greatest-ever nights.

And now you can be there at another iconic evening on Sunday May 2nd.

For your chance to win a night at the gig of the year, simply answer this question and email your answer to:

competitions@londonweeklynews.co.uk

(Don't forget to include your name and phone number).



Paul McCartney's famous 'Beatle bass' was made by:
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The pair of tickets on offer are for Paul McCartney's O2 show on Sunday May 2nd. Normal competition rules apply.

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WINE & DINE

The food and
drink page for
West London

Be a happy Easter feaster

By Keeley Bolger

THE UK splashes out around £365million every year on Easter eggs. It's big business. In fact, in 2014, we scoffed 92 million Cadbury Creme Eggs, while Thorntons are currently re-stocking their shelves with some three million Harry Hopalot chocolate bunnies.

But if your favourite egg has already flown off the shelves, or you've had your fill of chocolate, you could try making some alternative sugary hits instead.

I headed over to the Good Housekeeping Institute in Soho's St Anne's Court, for a masterclass with cook Cher Loh, who is prepared to teach me and a batch of other merry bakers, how to whizz up some Easter biscuits.

He reassured us they were "easy to make" - made even easier by the fact that Loh has already mixed up and chilled some dough.

After rolling some out on the work surface, I'm was just about to hastily shove my biscuit-cutter into the middle when Loh stopped me.

"Start from the edge of dough, so you get as many biscuits as possible from it," he advised.

After cutting out all our biscuits, they were arranged on parchment and re-chilled, before baking in the oven and then being left to cool.

Next came the fun part - decorating.

With a steady hand and using a tasteful palette of three pastel colours, Loh piped neat lines, squiggles and lattices onto each of his biscuits. They looked like edible works of art when he had finished.

But with a stack of errands to run and a tendency to become impatient with baking, I stuck with a simple pink squiggle, yellow line and pale blue zig-zag on mine.

They looked a little childlike compared to Loh's (and the other bakers in the class), who had carefully piped their names, Easter messages and woodland creatures onto theirs.

Still, it's the effort that counts, right? And while baking biscuits from scratch had taken a bit more effort than my usual supermarket dash, I'm pleased to report that my batch was met with approval from my colleagues the next day.

To try your hand at making your own Easter treats, here are two recipes from the Good Housekeeping Institute...



■ **DISPENSING ADVICE:** Cher Loh at the Good Housekeeping Institute in Soho

ICED EASTER BISCUITS

(Makes 10)

75g unsalted butter, softened, plus extra to grease

100g caster sugar

40g condensed milk

1 medium egg, beaten

Finely grated zest of 1/2 orange or 1/2 lemon

1/2tsp baking powder

200g plain flour, plus extra to dust

Pinch of salt

For the icing:

100g icing sugar

Food colouring pastes

Ribbon, to decorate (optional)

Put the butter, sugar and condensed milk into a large bowl. Mix with a wooden spoon until pale and fluffy. Next, beat in the egg a little at a time, then add the zest, followed by the baking powder, flour and a pinch of salt. Bring together with your hands, then wrap in cling film and chill for 30 minutes.

Lightly grease two large baking sheets with butter. Lightly flour a work surface and roll out the dough to 5mm thick. Stamp out Easter shapes, re-rolling the trimmings.

Arrange the biscuits on the prepared sheets. If you later want to thread a ribbon through the top, make a 5mm hole in each biscuit with a skewer. Chill for 15 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Bake the biscuits for 10-12 minutes until lightly golden. Loosen with a palette knife, then transfer them to a wire rack to cool completely.

For the icing, sift icing sugar into a bowl and add just enough water to make a thick, spreadable icing. Divide among small bowls and add colouring to each as needed. Pipe or spread over the biscuits and leave to set. If you like, you can thread ribbons through the biscuits and hang them up.

HOT CROSS BUNS

(Makes 12)

300g strong white bread flour, plus extra to dust

1tsp mixed spice

25g cold unsalted butter, cut into cubes, plus extra to grease

50g caster sugar

Finely grated zest of 1/2 lemon

1x7g sachet fastaction dried yeast

170ml semi-skimmed milk, plus a dash more if needed

1 medium egg

75g sultanas or mixed fruit for the cross topping

1tbsp plain flour

1/2tsp salt

1tbsp golden syrup, to glaze

Put the strong flour, mixed spice, butter and half a teaspoon of salt into a food processor, and pulse until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Alternatively, rub the butter into the flour mixture using your fingers.

Add the sugar, lemon zest and yeast and pulse again (or stir) to combine. Empty the mixture into a large bowl and make a well in the centre. Gently heat the milk until it's just warm, then add the milk and egg to the flour bowl and stir quickly to make a soft dough. If the mixture feels too dry, you can add a little more cold milk.

Dust a work surface with flour, then knead the dough for five minutes or until elastic. Transfer dough to a large, lightly greased bowl, cover with cling film, and leave in a warm place to rise for one hour.

Transfer the dough to a work surface and knead in the sultanas (you may need to flour the work surface again).

Return the dough to the bowl, cover with cling film and leave to rise for 30 minutes.



Lightly grease a baking sheet with butter. Turn the dough out onto a floured work surface and divide into 12 equal pieces. Shape each into a ball, then flatten slightly. Arrange the balls on the baking sheet, spacing them a little apart. Cover with a clean tea towel and leave to rise for 45 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 220C/200C fan/gas 7. To make the cross topping, put the flour into a small bowl and mix in just enough cold water to give it a smooth, pipeable consistency (about two tablespoons). Put the flour mixture into a piping bag (no need for a nozzle), snip off the tip and, working quickly, pipe a cross on top of each bun.

Bake the buns for 15-18 minutes, or until golden and risen. As soon as they come out of the oven, brush with golden syrup. Then allow to cool completely on a wire rack - or eat warm with lashings of butter.



MARK HIX'S RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Thai asparagus soup

Serves 4

THIS soup is a great way to use up any excess asparagus you might have hanging around. If you would like to give it even more of an Asian flavour, add black fungus or shiitake mushrooms.

250g asparagus with the woody ends trimmed (keep the offcuts for the broth)

1 onion, peeled and roughly chopped

1 small leek, washed and roughly chopped

1 stick of lemon grass, roughly chopped

2 lime leaves

A small piece (about 20g) of root ginger or galangal

3 cloves of garlic

Stalks from Thai basil and coriander

1.5ltrs of vegetable stock

2tbsp Thai fish sauce

For the garnish

1 stick of lemon grass, outer leaves trimmed off, and finely chopped

4 lime leaves

A small piece of root ginger, peeled and shredded

1 mild red chilli, seeded and sliced

2 spring onions, trimmed

and thinly sliced on the angle

A few sprigs of Thai basil

A few sprigs of coriander

60g Oriental mushrooms – enoki or hon-shimeji

Put the woody ends of the asparagus in a saucepan with the rest of the ingredients for the soup. Bring to the boil and simmer gently, skimming regularly, for 1 hour. Strain the soup through a fine-meshed sieve into a clean pan and season with salt and pepper.

Now, take the asparagus and slice thinly on the angle. Add this and the other ingredients for the garnish to the pan. Simmer for a minute, then serve.



Alternative sweet Easter treats

● **Personalised Easter Bunny Card, £11.50** (www.biscuiteers.com)

Forget eggs and instead plump for this beautifully presented edible Easter card. You can add a personalised message onto the egg-shaped biscuit, which is flanked by a super cute biscuit bunny either side.



● **Lady Ba-Ba Cake, £6**

(www.co-operativefood.co.uk)

Score serious brownie points with this baarilliant Easter centrepiece. The marshmallow exterior means you need a sharp knife to cut through it, but the effort is rewarded with a pleasant sponge cake underneath.



● **6 Mini Easter Egg Biscuits, £2.50** (www.marksandspencer.com)

These melt in the mouth cookies come topped off with sugary chocolate eggs. Their petite size makes them a perfect nibble with a cuppa.



Pilot project to improve links between London primary schools and employers

PIMLICO Primary was the venue this week for the launch of the Make the Grade programme in London to boost employer school links.

Westminster is to be the pilot for the project before a London-wide offer is expanded in 2016. The Leeds-based Ahead Partnership created Make the Grade in 2004 and has been responsible for enhancing the life chances of tens of thousands of young people in Yorkshire.

Pimlico Primary comes under the umbrella of Future Academies, an educational charity committed to helping young people by setting them up with the best possible education. The school was chosen for the pilot because Lord Nash, chairman of Future Academies, is championing the role of employers and employer-engagement in raising aspirations and achievement among young people.

While the programme has previously focused on secondary school students, this new initiative in London will include primary school pupils for the first time. Future Academies will be working closely with Make the Grade to extend their programmes for primary school children.

LORD John Nash is Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools and joined the House of Lords in January 2013.

Lord Nash supports several charities for young people. In 2006, together with his wife, Lady Nash, he founded Future Academies.

Lord Nash is chairman of Future Academies and co-chair of governors of Pimlico Academy.

According to research, many children as young as eight will have already decided what careers or subjects are 'not for them'; the Make the Grade programme will help with this. Ground-breaking in this programme will be the way in which employer engagement will be developed into the work schemes of lessons in the Future Academies primary schools. "What can be more important than the futures of

our young people?" asked Lord Nash.

"We have already seen the value of employer engagement programmes in the success of the pupils that attend Pimlico Academy and are delighted to be teaming with Make the Grade to extend this work to our primaries as well, and to other schools in Westminster."

"London schools are synonymous with innova-

tion," said Dr Jo Saxton, chief executive of Future Academies. "So we are delighted to be sharing impactful innovations with other schools in Westminster. Future Academies is committed to developing pupils who are both knowledgeable and skilled and our place in this Westminster pilot reflects this.

Stephanie Burras, CBE, founder of the Ahead Partnership, said: "We are indebted to Lord Nash and Pimlico Primary for embracing all that Make the Grade can offer the young people as well as the businesses of Westminster."



■ STEPHANIE Burras, founder of the Ahead Partnership talking to pupils at Pimlico Primary.

Pimlico Academy in the top ten for pupil progress

PIMLICO Academy is one of the best in the country for student progress at GCSE, receiving national recognition for the value it adds to students' achievements at GCSE.

SSAT, the Schools, Students and Teachers Network, recently undertook its annual in-depth analysis of Department for Education data on state-funded schools in England and identified Pimlico Academy's success.

The school has won an SSAT Educational Outcomes Award, being in the top 10 per cent of schools for progress made by pupils between their key stage 2 results and their GCSE results.

The school will receive the award at a special celebration ceremony at Holland Park School in London on May 12th.

Council agrees to expansion of popular primary school

KENSINGTON and Chelsea Council has agreed to expand and refurbish the heavily over-subscribed Colville Primary School.

The 300-pupil primary, which lies just off the Portobello Road, is so popular that this year it received more than 200 applications for its 45 places, with 70 per cent of pupils coming from the local community.

Not only is it thriving as a school, Colville has also become something of a community hub.

There are currently 34 after-school clubs including: stay and play facilities for children up to three years old, English language classes for parents, fitness classes, Tai Chi, an opera group and it is also an information centre for the borough's Credit Union.

A council spokeswoman said: "Although plans are as yet embryonic the expansion and refurbishment scheme will certainly include remodelling the buildings to enable expansion to two-form entry of 60 pupils.

"It is also likely to include general renovation and some alteration to classroom layouts to create larger, more flexible spaces and better specialist facilities. The project team will also be seeking to maintain and enhance Colville's role as a community space."

Consultation with parents and local residents will begin next month. A further consultation will follow later in the year once firm options have been drawn up. Subject to planning permission it is hoped the scheme will be complete ready for the autumn term of 2018.

Commenting on the Cabinet's decision Colville headteacher, Jagdeep Birdi, said: "This is a vote of confidence in Colville's massive improvement. More children than ever will be able to take advantage of the excellent education we provide."

Councillor Emma Will, Cabinet Member for Education and Libraries, added: "Colville is thriving and improving. We want to cement that progress and en-

By Geoff Baker

able more children to benefit from places in Royal Borough schools."

The plans for Colville are just the latest in a massive programme of school building and refurbishment taking place throughout Kensington and Chelsea.

● In 2010 the council opened the new Chelsea Academy, in 2012 it unveiled the brand new Holland Park School building. In 2014 it opened the new Kensington Aldridge Academy.

It has also entirely rebuilt Middle Row Primary School which is now known as the Ark Brunel Academy. Many other schemes are in the pipeline: a new building for Barlby Primary, a new school for children with special educational needs, a new building for Marlborough Primary and refurbishment and expansion for Fox Primary.



■ POPULAR: Colville Primary School

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TALK OF THE TOWN

MUSIC ★ THEATRE ★ REVIEWS

*The entertainment scene
across London*

Free tickets for Bugsy Malone at the newly reopened Lyric

THE Lyric Theatre is reopening with the much-loved musical *Bugsy Malone* – and people living or working in Hammersmith and Fulham have the chance to see it for free.

The theatre reopens in April after a multi-million pound redevelopment to tell the tale of gang warfare in Prohibition-era New York all with a young cast aged from nine to 19.

The redevelopment is the Lyric's first major facelift in 35 years. It includes a new café and bar, toilets and a two-storey extension which will be named the Reuben Foundation Wing in recognition of a generous grant from the Reuben brothers' charitable foundation.

The new facilities will include drama, dance and recording studios, an editing suite, music practice rooms, a film and TV studio, a 50-seat cinema, a digital play-space, a sensory space for children with disabilities, props and costume stores, wardrobe and scenic workshops, as well as meeting and seminar rooms.

Jessica Hepburn, executive director of the Lyric Hammersmith said: "I can't wait for people to come and see what we've done to the Lyric. I think they're going to be amazed."

"There isn't going to be another producing theatre in London quite like it and there will be no better place for young people and emerging artists to develop their creative talent."

The project is developing the site to the west of the existing building and has five main funders: Hammersmith and Fulham Council, the Arts Council England, the Department for Education, the Mayor of London and the Reuben Foundation.

Building work began in 2012 and the design was developed by the internationally acclaimed Rick Mather Architects, responsible for designing the Lyric's new entrance in the early 2000s and shortlisted for the RIBA Stirling Prize in 2010 for their work on the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford.

The new, improved theatre, will reopen with the well-loved *Bugsy Malone*. Olivier award-winning director Sean Holmes and the cast will bring to life the first professional production of the story in more than a decade.

Set in Prohibition era New York, rival gangsters Fat Sam and Dandy Dan are at war with custard pies and 'splurge guns' as their weapons. Nice guy *Bugsy Malone* falls for aspiring singer Blousey Brown and ends up getting drawn into the gang warfare.

Based on the book and the 1976 film by Alan Parker, it features all the popular songs including Fat Sam's *Grand Slam*, *My Name is Tallulah*, *Bad Guys* and *Give a Little Love*.

The show runs at the Lyric Theatre in King Street between April 11 and August 1. Tickets cost between £15 and £40 for the two and a half hour show.

Free tickets are available for people who live or work in Hammersmith or Fulham for the opening night (April 11th). The giveaway will take place on March 27th and 28th. For more details visit www.lyric.co.uk or call 020 8741 6850.

Stars coming out in the West End this spring



■ IMELDA Staunton as Mamma Rose

THE next few months are being tipped as a golden time for West End ticket sales as international stars of stage and screen tread the boards in London. With 14 major acting awards between them, Imelda Staunton, Damian Lewis, John Goodman and Bradley Cooper are bringing a touch of Hollywood to theatre land this spring.

First to bring some glitz will be Imelda Staunton when she reprises her role as Mamma Rose in *The Gypsy* at the Savoy.

Best musical

Staunton won a best actress Academy Award in 2004 for her portrayal of the title character in the film *Vera Drake* and has also won no less than eight Olivier awards. Seen by many as the greatest of all the Broadway musicals, *Gypsy* tells of Rose's dreams of success for her daughters, and her hope of reflected glory alongside the difficulties of life on the stage. It was named as best musical in January by the Critics Circle theatre awards and, with former *Doctor Who* Peter Davidson also joining the cast, it promises to be the stuff of West End legend.

Another star hoping to gain legendary stage status is Golden Globe and Emmy award-winning actor Damian Lewis. Lewis, famous for playing Sergeant Nicholas Brody in the multi award-winning TV series *Homeland* is set to return to the UK to star in *American Buffalo* at the Wyndham The-

atre which opens on April 16th. David Mamet's classic play explores the lives of three small-time crooks, in a dark but comedic appraisal of greed and the honour among thieves.

Golden Globe and Emmy-winning actor John Goodman will join Lewis alongside the Tony Award nominated Tom Sturridge.

In a interview to promote the production Lewis said: "It will be an engaging, thought provoking and above all, I hope, entertaining play for all generations."

The much anticipated opening of the *The Elephant Man* takes place on May 19th. Following a highly-acclaimed, record-breaking run on Broadway the play comes to the Theatre Royal Haymarket for a strictly limited 12-week season.

Starring three-time Academy Award nominated Bradley Cooper this new production is based on the real life of Joseph Merrick. It tells the story of a 19th-century man who became a star of the traveling freak show circuit. Cooper credits the 1980 film adaptation for inspiring his career.

"When I was a kid I saw the movie and it made me want to be an actor, but I never in my wildest dreams thought that I would play him."

Using no prosthetics the actor portrays Merrick's deformity through physicality, letting the audience imagine Merrick's appearance.

The Broadway production broke box office records last year and looks set to do the same when it opens in the West End.

Vote for your favourite show in the Olivier's Audience Award



■ MATILDA the Musical



■ BILLY Elliott

THE great and good of theatre land will assemble at Covent Garden's Royal Opera House on Sunday April 12th for this year's Olivier Awards.

Hosted by comedian Lenny Henry, the West End's version of the Oscars celebrates the achievements of theatre industry over the past year. Awards are given for everything from best actor to best set design and with so many wonderful productions showing this year, the gongs are likely to be hotly contested.

There is one award, however, which is decided by the theatre-going public. The This Morning Audience award is given to the year's most popular show, with those in the final this year being *Billy Elliott*, *Jersey Boys*, *Matilda* and *Wicked*.

Billy Elliott the musical, currently starring West End legend Ruthie Henshall, has been seen by over 10 million people and celebrates its tenth anniversary in May this year. With music by Sir Elton John and lyrics by Lee Hall this is a wonderful cele-



By NICKY SWEETLAND
LWN Theatre Critic

bration of success despite adversity and show cases some of the country's most talented juvenile performers.

Another show literally packed full of youthful talent and exuberance is *Matilda* the musical. With a new pair of revolving chil-

dren set to join to ranks this week, the pupils of the notorious Crunchem Hall have been wowing audiences since opening in 2011 and has been seen by an estimated 1.5 million people.

Based on Roald Dahl's much-loved children's story, the show features music and lyrics by acclaimed comedian Tim Minchin and book by Dennis Kelly.

The third musical on the list is *Jersey Boys* and, I'm ashamed to admit, I haven't actually seen this one yet. Having won 55 major awards worldwide this acclaimed hit show tells the remarkable rise to stardom of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons who became one of the most successful

bands in pop music history.

The final show on the list is my favourite musical of all time and the one I will be definitely voting for.

Wicked is the musical phenomenon that has been enthralled audiences at The Apollo Victoria since 2006. This incredible story of friendship between two of the strongest female characters in musical theatre history, has everything a show should offer. With a beautiful score, hilarious yet touching script and astounding staging, I could watch it every week.

Voting for the This Morning Audience awards closes at 5pm on April 10th. To cast your vote visit www.olivierawards.com/vote/



■ WICKED



■ JERSEY Boys

TALK OF THE TOWN ★ *The entertainment scene across London*

Stop, be silent and give thanks

THERE will be much to sing and shout about on the 70th anniversary of VE Day on May 8th – and there will be much to remember and shed a tear for too.

Little better exemplifies the reasons why the whole of London should, by rights, fall pin-drop silent at 3pm that day than a photograph taken in the capital in the last months of the war in Europe by the American fashion photographer Toni Frissell.

The poor little chap in her picture, bravely stiff-lipped and holding back tears, had been playing with his friends just minutes before.

Suddenly, there had been an explosion like the many he had already come to know in his few years.

He ran to his home but it was no longer there. A 13-ton German rocket had wiped out all the happiness of his future.

Buried beneath the rubble which remained were his entire family; mother, father and brother, dead. All in the world that he now had to cling to was a favourite toy.

It is for this reason - and hundreds of thousands of good reasons like it - why the Government has officially told London to come to a complete and utter standstill on May 8th.

Bus and trains will stop, taxis will pull over, flights will be held and the Tube will not run for two minutes. Shops will stop serving, pubs will fall quiet, schoolrooms will be silenced and all music everywhere will be turned off.

"We would urge all members of the public, wherever they are, to participate in the

by Geoff Baker

two-minute silence at 3pm", said a Downing Street spokesman.

Everyone is expected to stop whatever they are doing and reflect in respect for some moments - not least because 28,556 Londoners were killed and 25,578 were injured by the bombs, V1 and V2 rockets that made a wasteland of the capital in the war. London took the brunt of the bombing, which killed 67,100 in the UK.

For some, like the heartbroken lad in Toni Frissell's iconic photograph, tragedy came even as the war in Europe was nearing its end. Although the worst of the bombing was over by 1945, V1 and V2 rockets were still dropping on London. On March 8th, two months before the ceasefire, a V2 hit a crowded market building in Farringdon, killing 110 people.

Official surrender

Nazi Germany signed its official surrender at 2.41 pm on May 7th, agreeing that fighting would end at 11.01 pm the next day.

The Government has decided that the 70th anniversary commemorations will start at 3pm on Friday May 8th with the two-minute silence and a service of remembrance at The Cenotaph because this coincides with the time in 1945 that Winston Churchill broadcast to the nation that victory in Europe was won.

Although the Government says the leaders of all political parties will attend the 30-minute Cenotaph service, it is not known whether The Queen will be present – for technically she is meant to wait in Buckingham Palace for the arrival of the leader of

her next Government, as May 7th is General Election day.

It could, and no doubt will, be asked why the Government deliberately chose May 7th for the election when it knew full well that the 8th would be the big VE Day anniversary.

In 1945, London partied like never before on May 8th. Hundreds of thousands crammed the centre of the capital, thronging Buckingham Palace and calling for Churchill to join the King and Queen on the balcony there.

For some reason possibly to do with the confusion expected over the probable forming of another Coalition, the 70th anniversary party has been put off until Saturday May 9th, which will start with the bells of every church in London ringing at 11am and climax in a concert at Horse Guards Parade.

The authorities are still busily phoning pop stars and national treasures to complete the line-up for the VE Day gig. Reports that Paul McCartney will headline the show are, say his people, incorrect as Macca will be preparing for a European tour and his schedule does not allow a VE Day show.

The VE Day weekend will continue on Sunday with a service of thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey, followed by a march of 2,000 men and women representing 100 organisations and a fly-past of wartime aircraft including a Lancaster, Spitfire and a Hurricane.

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, is urging everyone in the capital to turn out to commemorate VE Day.

He said: "The 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe is an



■ REFLECT IN RESPECT: The heart-rending image by Toni Frissell

opportunity for people in London to remember the incredible sacrifices made by our Armed Forces and the people of Britain in the battle to defeat tyranny. The surrender of Nazi Germany ushered in a new dawn following one of the darkest periods in our history.

"With the passage of time VE Day is all the more important. This May, a

new generation will have the opportunity to understand and to commemorate a victory that has shaped the life each of us leads today. That in itself is profoundly important."

More details about the plans to mark the 70th anniversary of VE Day will be announced shortly.

Teen singing for the homeless

ATEENAGE London singer/songwriter is releasing a record to raise funds for a homeless charity.

Gilska Weerakkody, pictured, a student at Arts Education London School in Chiswick, is raising funds for SPEAR, which helps young homeless adults not only with safe shelter but also provide skills for life, education opportunities and job skills to live independent lives.

Gilska, who started writing her own songs in 2013, regularly uploads her compositions onto YouTube, through the Song Academy UK, a school for young songwriters.

She has persuaded Horus Music to give 100

per cent royalties of her latest number "Affections" to SPEAR.

Gilska, who is determined to make it big in the music industry, is also encouraging other teenagers to support the charity by becoming a powerful force to alleviate homelessness and the consequences of homelessness especially among young people.

She is also intending to become an ambassador for SPEAR to encourage the support of teenagers across the UK

Gilska said: "I have managed to get permission from Song Academy to offer SPEAR my song "Affections" to fundraise. My mother spoke to Horus Music, who work with charities, and SPEAR is signing a contract with Horus Music to distribute my song and support with promotions.

"I have also got together a team of friends to help me with my promotions which will include performances at various gigs with the band I practice with."

Gilska appeared with Song Academy bands at the EE1 Brooke Theatre in the Kings Road on Sunday.

Gilska continued: "I want to raise £10,000 initially. I will ask my media teacher to support me and seek the advice of my expert tutors at ACM and parents of my friends who have expertise in this area. My family is also supporting me a lot in this task.

I started with just an idea and I'm finding out what is possible."

● SPEAR is a charity working with homeless people in and around Richmond and Merton. Since 1987, they have offered services to thousands of homeless and vulnerable people, successfully transforming lives and supporting many of our service users to the point that they have achieved total independence.



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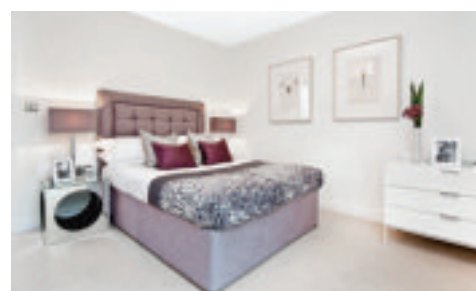
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In Memoriam

THOMAS JOHN COE 24 APRIL 1924 - 5 MARCH 2014

Thomas John Coe was the Principal of Messrs Charles Saunders & Son, 40 Gloucester Road, South Kensington, for many years.

Thomas entered the firm at the age of 17 years old as an office boy and through hard work and vigorous studies became a much-respected and charismatic Chartered Surveyor and Senior Partner.

Thomas passed away on 5 March 2014 and is sadly missed by his son Tony, daughters Helen and Louise, family, friends and fellow Rotarians who will remember vividly his hilarious speeches and wicked sense of fun.

We know that our father will now be supremely happy with his beloved wife Pearl.

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LONDON WEEKLY NEWS

sport

Ramsey seeks four victories

TIME is fast running out for QPR to save themselves from relegation after Sunday's 2-1 home defeat by Everton which leaves them one place off the bottom of the

Premier League and four points from safety.

But with eight games to go, manager Chris Ramsey is adamant that R's can retain their top flight status: "There is



LOFTUS ROAD RANGERS REVIEW

With Tony McDonald

an unbelievable belief around the place that we are going to survive and the players themselves believe it.

"All they can do is keep performing like that and if they do, then I am sure we can climb up the table.

"I think the fans will see the players are trying, no-one is hiding and there is no apathy around here. Everybody did their shift and played their best.

"We're not going down with a whimper and I'm sure there have been teams in worse positions than us and have survived. We do need a miraculous run of form to get ourselves out of trouble and I think we are capable of doing that. But I wouldn't say that we need a miracle," Ramsey added.

Everton, who were expected to be tired following their 5-2 Europa League collapse in Kiev in midweek, took the lead on the counter-attack through Seamus Coleman in the 18th minute. Five minutes after replacing Junior Hoilett on the hour, substitute Eduardo Vargas equalised for QPR but Aaron Lennon grabbed the winner, his first goal for the visitors, with 13 minutes left.

It was tough on the R's, who saw strikes from Hoilett and sub Adel Taarabt, in the 92nd minute, hit the bar. Ramsey said: "I've been saying it all along and I don't want to sound like a broken record, but that is the kind of thing that happens (when you are down the bottom)."

"Rob (Green) didn't have a save to make but

they have had three shots and scored two. That is what happens when you are at the bottom. We have had plenty of opportunities to score today but haven't taken them.

"Over the last three or four games we've had one bad performance at Crystal Palace. That happens to even the teams at the top."

Truth is, though, decent performances often don't equate to good results. Hoops have been beaten in their last five games at Loftus Road, where they were tough to beat earlier in the season, and lost 10 of their last 11 matches overall.

They don't make it as difficult as they should for teams to score against them. Ramsey pointed out that they have conceded two goals in each of the last three home league games – all 2-1 defeats. "The goals we've been giving away have been poor," he admits.

Scoring has become a problem, with leading marksman Charlie Austin struggling to recapture the form that brought him into the international reckoning. His confidence won't have been boosted by coach Roy Hodgson's fair decision to pick Tottenham's Harry Kane, instead, for the forthcoming England games. Despite being pleased with his players' improved attitude after the abysmal 3-1 defeat at Palace and retaining his bullish persona, Ramsey also acknowledges that time is running out for his men.

"Unfortunately, at this stage of the game we

can't keep being unlucky. We really should have maximised that performance with at least a point and possibly three."

Their plight would be even worse but for the inability of those around them. "We've been fortunate this weekend," Ramsey agreed after seeing all the other teams in the bottom seven lose. With no Premier League games this weekend due to the international programme, they will resume their struggle for league points with a visit to West Bromwich Albion on Easter Saturday, April 4. That's followed three days later by what could ultimately prove a decisive trip to fellow strugglers Aston Villa, whose recent resurgence under Tim Sherwood came to a halt with a 1-0 home defeat to Swansea



QPR's Charlie Austin - overlooked by England manager Roy Hodgson Photo: Rob Newell/Digital South

City on Saturday. Ramsey believes his team need four wins from their remaining eight games to avoid the drop. "Four wins probably keep you up this season, I think it's going to be a low total," he said.

City on Saturday. Ramsey believes his team need four wins from their remaining eight games to avoid the drop. "Four wins probably keep you up this season, I think it's going to be a low total," he said.

This week at Stamford Bridge

■ FROM PAGE 28

we wanted to really do well in the league, because we had a lot of first-year boys in the squad. Most of the team that beat Spurs to get to the final are in the U-21s as well. Week to week there would be a lot of the lads who didn't play in the cup that we train and play every week.

"Having said that, the senior ones did need to be reminded that Spurs are a top side. They are by far the best team we have played this year. They battered us for the first 45 minutes in the league earlier and then in the first leg of the semi-final at White Hart Lane I thought it was a fairly even game.

"But when these players come down from U21 to U18 level you cannot afford to take the foot off the pedal, especially when you come up against good teams and that's what I thought happened a bit in the first leg of the semi-final. As a result, Spurs punished us.

"Funny enough, we talked about the possibility of going a goal behind before the game," said Morris. "The fact is, we are slow starters and have given Spurs a lot of goals already this season and have gone behind almost every time we played them. But we also hit home to the lads how many times we have gone behind and come back to beat them. We are more than capable of scoring goals and so it proved."

There have not been many Chelsea youth products like Morris who have come through the ranks to go on to have seriously good careers. So what can he bring to the table to prepare

this crop of players for the future? "It's been kind of easy for me. Firstly, because I knew Joe when I came back to the club. We think along very similar lines about how we want to play, how we expect the boys to be. Joe and I will be bouncing ideas off each other. He is not one of these managers who is saying 'I'm deciding this or that' and then all of a sudden I'm there just to do the substitutions. It's not like that. "We are in the office together all day, talking about the players, the system, the way we are going to tweak things.

"We spent all week working on this game. I'm sick of watching Spurs on video - we have been to so many different games and we went to watch them as well.

"Joe is a top class coach and, for me, it was an ideal partnership. Both of us are young and have a lot of learning to do but it's nice to be doing it together

"Me and Joe are able to demonstrate the technical side of things to the players. Joe can play, no doubt about that. So when we are doing technical things in the afternoon, if any of the players want to come and have a go, they can, but they rarely win!" he jokes.

Morris and Edwards take a peek across the Cobham training ground to see what tips they can pick up from Jose Mourinho and the first-team set-up

"It would be silly not to go and see what Mourinho is doing and also what the players are doing," Morris said.

Blue & White In Brief

■ **KOSTAS** Stafylidis issued an apology following his dismissal for two yellow cards in quick succession shortly after half-time in last Wednesday's 3-0 home defeat by Leeds United.

He said: "I want to apologise for the red card I received in last night's game. I let my emotions get the better of me against Leeds, and made the team's challenge to get back in the game even harder.

"We did not deserve to lose this match and I apologise to my manager, my teammates, the club staff and supporters for my actions.

"I'm also sorry that I won't be able to help the team when they go for the win at Huddersfield on Saturday but want to make the fans aware that I'm committed to helping the team in the remaining matches of the season."

■ **CHELSEA** Under-18s came from 3-0 down on aggregate to beat Tottenham Hotspur and reach their fourth consecutive FA Youth Cup Final.

Blues' hopes of overturning their 2-0 first leg deficit suffered a blow when Shayon Harrison put Spurs in front after half-an hour in last Wednesday's second leg at Stamford Bridge.

But Chelsea bounced to net twice in the last five minutes of the first-half through Dominic Solanke and Izzy Brown, to take a lead on the night.

The home side then struck twice in the opening eight minutes of the second-half through Solanke and skipper Charlie Colkett which turned the tie around.

Colkett added a fifth from the penalty spot before Spurs netted a spot-kick of their own in the final minutes to set up a nervy finale. However, the holders came through the late test to win 5-4 on aggregate and will now face either Manchester City or Leicester City in the final.

Chelsea: Collins, Aina, Tomori, Clarke-Salter, Dasilva, Sammut (Scott 77), Colkett, Boga (Musonda 71), Brown (Palmer 90+4), Abraham, Solanke.

● JUNIOR FOOTBALL

KENSINGTON Dragons' youth teams continue to accelerate towards more honours and silverware as we enter the business end of the football season. Here is a round-up of latest performances:

● U17s walloped Rayners Lane Youth 8-0 at Linford Christie Stadium in Dragons' best display of the season. It should have been 9-0 but the referee refused to give a disputed goal despite the goalkeeper clearly picking the ball out of the net. This was a real squad victory, with every Dragon playing their part.

● U16As came from behind to defeat St Joseph 5-3 away despite a difficult start. Dragons arrived 30 minutes late after fighting their way through the Harrow half marathon traffic and were thrust immediately into action. St Josephs were 3-0 up at half-time but Dragons then scored five goals in 30 minutes - much to St Joseph's intense annoyance.

● U16Bs were awarded three points after Forest United refused to face the rampant Dragons in the Trophy Cup.

● U15As hammered Yeading Wanderers 4-0 away to win their division with two games to spare. It was only the bar and a couple of great saves from Yeading's keeper that kept the winning margin down in this thoroughly professional Dragons performance.

● U15Bs beat Wealdstone 3-1 away after going one down in a fiercely contested match. A win from one of Dragons' two remaining games will guarantee them second place in the division.

● U13s beat Old Actonians 1-0 away. The determination and industry of Old Actonians belied their lowly league position as they hassled and harried the Dragons. The visitors battered away at the Actonians' goal but were continually thwarted by their keeper in stunning form. The breakthrough finally came from a corner when a shot was blocked in the melee before the Dragons' striker controlled the ball up with his back to goal, turned his man and scored low inside the near post, despite the keeper getting a touch. With one game remaining Dragons are poised for promotion.

● U12s walloped Ruislip Rangers 9-0 at St Marks with no less than seven Dragons scoring.

● U11s lost 4-1 to Acton Ealing Whistlers at St Marks in a reasonable performance from the Dragons. Although not quite good enough yet, many of the Dragons have now adjusted to competitive league football and there is the makings of an excellent team.

● Firsts just lost 2-1 at Interwood.

● Reserves kept the Firsts company by also narrowly losing 2-1 to Hillingdon Reserves.



Kensington Dragons Under-15s football team

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FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Saturday, March 28

QPR U18 v Leeds United U18, 3.00.

Aston Villa U18 v CHELSEA U18

(League play-off game 3), 11.00.

Stoke City U18 v FULHAM U18, 12.00.

Monday, March 30

QPR U21 v Huddersfield Town U21, 7.00.

Friday, April 3

FULHAM v Brentford, 3.00.

Saturday, April 4

CHELSEA v Stoke City, 5.30.

West Bromwich Albion v QPR, 3.00.

SPORT

Thursday, March 26th 2015

●SPORTS DESK: 07711 169427

Chelsea show strong belief

RESTORING their six-point lead over the chasing pack with a resilient 3-2 Premier League win at Hull City on Sunday has set Chelsea up nicely for the final nine games of the season.

Since dropping two points at home to Southampton, Jose Mourinho has restored faith in the players that they can overcome adversity - and they needed that belief after letting slip a 2-0 lead at the KC Stadium before Loic Remy came off the bench to notch the decisive third goal.

Mourinho said: "We let the lead go but played fantastic football with the ball. At half-time we wanted to play the same football as we played at the beginning of the game. I told the players there is no point in

By LWN reporter **Paul Lagan**
sports@londonweeklynews.co.uk

analysing details and mistakes.

"But from the first minute of the second-half we went back to our quality football to create movement and sooner or later the goal would arrive. It did and we deserved to win."

One negative for Blues in their hard-earned win at Hull was the injury to top scorer Diego Costa, who scored the second goal before limping off with a recurrence of his long-standing hamstring injury, which should force him out of international duty with Spain this week.

"He has this hamstring problem," Mourinho admitted. "He tried to play for Atletico Madrid in last sea-



■ **DIEGO COSTA** suffered another hamstring strain
Photo: Rob Newell/Digital South



This week at STAMFORD BRIDGE

son's Champions League final but was injured. "He has this fragility. He works hard in training to compensate for the weakness but the injury can come. He now has 15 days without football with Chelsea. But if he is injured, we still have Remy and Didier Drogba. We never cry about injured players.

Doctor against surgery

"I don't think he will need an operation. The doctor is against surgery and knives. He's all in favour of collective work with the medical and fitness staff."

Manchester City temporarily reduced the gap at the top to three points with their 3-0 home win over West Brom but Blues' leading margin had doubled again

by Sunday evening.

"The title race should be over," Mourinho said. "In normal conditions, we should have 12 points more than we have now and the title race would be over. The reality is we have a six-point lead, which is the best of the season. We had an eight-point lead but then had 25 games still to play.

"We now also have a match in hand, which could help us to have a bigger distance. Our opponents can get another 24 points if they do that, so it's up to us to get the points we need.

"I'm pretty confident we will win it. I am confident in my players but it can be difficult."

Mourinho is not happy that this weekend's international break means it's 15 days before they play again against Stoke City at the Bridge.

"But I am happy for Diego. Imagine playing three matches in one week without him? So it's good for us that we don't play. But at this moment we have nine matches to play and I would like to play every week, so sometimes it's not so good for us."

● **EARLIER** last week the youth squad qualified for their fourth successive FA Youth Cup final berth (see match report p27) and one man helping their cause this season is Jody Morris.

Hammersmith-born Morris, 36, is plying his post-match trade as assistant to Under-18s manager Joe Edwards at Stamford Bridge these days and it seems a match made in heaven.

Morris has brought his top-flight experience to bear on the development squad, and he and Edwards, a former Chelsea schoolboy player and ex-U16 manager who has also worked with the kids in the previous three FA Youth Cup final squads.

Natural career step

Morris played 124 games for the Blues between 1996 and 2003, scoring 24 goals, before carving a career away from SW6 at Leeds United, Rotherham United, Millwall, St Johnstone and Bristol City ahead of his move into coaching, and it's clear that he sees donning the tracksuit and passing on his experience as the next natural step in his football career.

Speaking after last week's dramatic 5-4 aggregate semi-final victory over Spurs, Morris explained his and Edwards' role in that success, as they look forward to most likely playing Manchester City (who lead Leicester City 3-0 from their semi-final first leg) in the final.

"If I'm being brutally honest, I am over the moon to get the club to the final again," said Morris, who was munching on a much-earned pizza slice when I interviewed him in the Stamford Bridge tunnel on Wednesday of last week.

"Me and Joe said at the beginning of the season that

■ **CONTINUED ON PAGE 27**



Focus on Craven Cottage

TONY McDONALD reports on Fulham

'Bizarre' win lifts Fulham

FULHAM put some much needed breathing space between themselves and the bottom three teams in the battle to avoid relegation from the Championship with a 'bizarre' 2-0 win at Huddersfield Town on Saturday.

Nahki Wells somehow contrived to miss two penalties for the home side, who also hit the bar and post, had 31 shots (13 on target) and enjoyed 68 per cent possession.

But the only stats that mattered in a frenetic game were the goals scored at the start and end of the match by Alex Kačaniklić, netting direct from a corner in the second minute, and Seko Fofana, who sealed this vital away win in the last minute of normal time.

To add to a surreal afternoon in Yorkshire, referee Richard Clark was involved in a second-half red card mix-up. Confusion reigned when Fulham's Cauley Woodrow was red-carded for deliberate handball in the area. The bemused forward initially refused to leave the pitch, before eventually being dragged off by his team-mates.

After further protests, Clark consulted the fourth official and then rescinded the red card before correctly sending-off Shaun Hutchinson for

the offence. Wells missed the resulting spot-kick and then hit the post with his second. Town looked likely to grab an equaliser but Ishmael Miller twice hit the post, while Jacob Butterfield struck the bar with a 20-yard effort.

Marcus Bettinelli made a succession of saves to keep the score at 2-0 and earn Whites - playing in all-black! - their first away win in eight matches, dating back to December 13.

"It's probably the most bizarre game I've been involved in," said Fulham manager Kit Symons. "On Wednesday night against Leeds we played 10 times better but ended with a 3-0 defeat. We had 28 shots to their eight and still lost 3-0.

"Today was almost the exact opposite. We scored direct from a corner and one in the last minute of time added on. In between that, Huddersfield were by far the better team and had by far the better chances.

"We massively rode our luck. Marcus made a few great saves as well as a few unorthodox ones. We showed some manful defending, and some poor defending as well to get us into trouble, but then somehow managed to get ourselves out of it.

"It was just a crazy, bizarre game."

Fulham went to Huddersfield six points outside the drop zone prior to kick-off but the gap is now eight after this victory and the failure of the four teams around them to win. Rotherham United's home defeat by Sheffield Wednesday leaves them three points adrift of Whites in 21st position, while Wigan Athletic are a further five points back from Fulham.

Symons praised his men for digging in and grinding out a big victory: "I said to the players before the game that with the situation we're in we need to show character, proper character, and I thought we did that," he said. "We didn't play well but sometimes if you show that character you get the luck you need.

"We had an awful lot of luck today but we haven't had much lately at all, so I'm just delighted for those players and the travelling fans as well."

Fulham take a break from action this weekend due to international fixtures, before resuming at Craven Cottage on Good Friday (April 3) with a tough local derby against promotion-chasing Brentford.

AUSTIN IGNORED BY ENGLAND – see page 27